

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A DNA comprising a promoter region having the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:1 which comprises a regulatory sequence of a human adiponectin gene.
2. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 1, which consists of a promoter region having the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:1 which comprises a regulatory sequence of a human adiponectin gene.
3. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the regulatory sequence is a sequence containing PPRE (Peroxisome Proliferator-activated Receptor Responsive Element).
4. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the regulatory sequence is a sequence containing LRH-RE (Liver Receptor Homologue-1 Responsive Element).
5. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the regulatory sequence is the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:2.
6. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the regulatory sequence is the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:3.
7. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the regulatory sequence is a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:3.
8. (withdrawn): The DNA according to claim 2, which the regulatory sequence is the nucleotide sequence presented by SEQ ID NO:4.

9. (withdrawn): A recombinant plasmid DNA comprising the DNA according to claim 2.

10. (withdrawn and currently amended): The recombinant plasmid DNA according to claim 9, which is capable of ~~expressing~~ expressing a structural gene under control of the promoter region comprising the regulatory sequence of human adiponectin gene can express.

11. (withdrawn): A transformant transformed with the recombinant plasmid DNA according to claim 9 or 10.

12. (currently amended): A screening method for identifying a compound, or a salt thereof, which ~~is capable of enhancing~~ human adiponectin promoter activity or a salt ~~thereof~~, which comprises the steps of

(1) transforming a first and second cell with (a) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to a DNA sequence encoding a reporter, (b) an expression plasmid encoding a human PPAR γ protein and (c) an expression plasmid encoding a human RXR α protein;

(2) contacting said first cell with a diluent containing a test compound;

(3) contacting said second cell with a diluent lacking said test compound

(4) comparing the amount of said reporter that is produced by said first cell and said second cell, and wherein when a greater amount of said reporter is produced by said first cell after contacting with said diluent containing a test compound compared to the amount of said reporter produced by said second cell after contacting with said diluent lacking said test compound, said compound is identified as enhancing human adiponectin promoter activity~~using a transformant transformed with a recombinant plasmid DNA comprising DNA which consists of a promoter region having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 which comprises a regulatory sequence of a human adiponectin gene.~~

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): The screening method according to claim 1312, which is used to screen for a compound useful to treat diabetes, obesity, arteriosclerosis, or insulin resistance syndrome wherein an etiology of the syndrome is diabetes, obesity, hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipoproteinemias, hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, hypertension, circulatory system disease, or polyphagies.

15. (withdrawn): A screening kit of a compound which is capable of enhancing human adiponectin promoter activity or a salt thereof, which comprises using the transformant according to claim 11.

16. (withdrawn): A screening kit of a preventive and/or therapeutic medicine for syndrome selected from syndrome X, metabolic syndrome, multiple risk factor syndrome, insulin resistance syndrome, deadly quartet, and visceral fat syndrome, which comprises using the transformant according to claim 11.

17. (withdrawn): A compound which is capable of enhancing human adiponectin promoter activity or a salt thereof, which is obtainable by using the screening method according to claim 12.

18. (withdrawn): A preventive and/or therapeutic medicine for syndrome selected from syndrome X, metabolic syndrome, multiple risk factor syndrome, insulin resistance syndrome, deadly quartet, and visceral fat syndrome, which is obtainable by using the screening method according to claim 13.

19. (withdrawn): A compound which is capable of enhancing human adiponectin promoter activity or a salt thereof, which is obtainable by using the screening kit according to claim 15.

20. (withdrawn): A preventive and/or therapeutic medicine for syndromes selected from syndrome X, metabolic syndrome, multiple risk factor syndrome, insulin resistance syndrome, deadly quartet, and visceral fat syndrome, which is obtainable by using the screening kit according to claim 16.

21. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound which is capable of enhancing human adiponectin promoter activity according to claim 17 or 19 or a salt thereof.

22. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the preventive and/or therapeutic medicine for syndromes selected from Syndrome X, metabolic syndrome, multiple risk factor syndrome, insulin resistance syndrome, deadly quartet, and visceral fat syndrome according to claim 18 or 20.

23-29. (canceled).

30. (new): The method according to claim 12 or 14, wherein said compound regulates human PPAR γ activity.

~ 31. (new): The method according to claim 12 or 14, wherein said compound regulates human RXR α activity

32. (new): The method according to claim 12 or 14, wherein said compound regulates human LRH-1 activity.

33. (new): The screening method according to claim 12, wherein step (1) further comprises transforming said first and second cell with an expression plasmid encoding a human LRH-1 protein.